



## Arizona Department of Public Safety

**- For Immediate Release -**

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

### **Through the Efforts of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Supported by the Governor and Legislature, Fatal Collisions Have Decreased to a Level Not Seen Since 1998.**

“Thanks to the support of Governor Janet Napolitano and the Arizona Legislature there are more DPS officers on our highways and that plays a significant role in reducing all types of collisions. As a result, public safety is impacted in a positive way. We are happy to release these collision statistics and are looking forward to continued success in making our highways safer,” said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

With the increased staffing levels provided by the governor and legislature, the men and woman of DPS have been able to focus enforcement efforts towards laws specifically designed to reduce collisions and save lives. In addition, our diligent enforcement of Arizona’s tougher DUI laws and the vehicle impoundment law, have proven effective in improving highway safety.

The number of fatal collisions that occurred during 2007 has decreased to its lowest level since 1998. A significant amount of these reductions include fatal collisions involving alcohol or commercial vehicles. Reductions are not limited to fatal collisions, however. Collisions involving injury and property damage have also been reduced. Many collision categories are the lowest they have been in seven to nine years.

*The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona’s highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona’s largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona’s 15 counties.*

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